

18 February 1994

Title: "US Restores Senior-Level Contacts with New Zealand." State Department statement announcing restoration of senior-level contacts between US and New Zealand officials for discussions of political, strategic and broad security matters. (940218)

Date: 02/18/94 *

U.S. RESTORES SENIOR-LEVEL CONTACTS WITH NEW ZEALAND (Text: State Department statement of 02/18/94) (450)
Washington — The United States announced late February 18 that it had decided to restore "senior-level contacts between U.S. officials with their New Zealand counterparts for discussions on political, strategic and broad security matters."

The written statement, issued by the office of the spokesman, said, "Our decision to restore senior-level contacts does not signify a restoration of our previous alliance with New Zealand under **ANZUS** nor does it foreshadow adjustments in other aspects of our previous security cooperation that have been curtailed.

"It is our hope that our decision to upgrade contacts with New Zealand, along with the sweeping changes in the international environment since the mid-1980s, will lead over time to resolution of the issues that impede restoration of the full relationship which our two countries enjoyed before 1987."

Following is text of the statement: (begin text) U.S.-NEW ZEALAND RELATIONS Since 1987, we restricted political, military and security contacts with New Zealand as a result of New Zealand's adoption of legislation that prevents U.S. Navy vessels and military aircraft from visiting that country. Our defense obligations to New Zealand under the **ANZUS** treaty have been suspended since that time.

In recent months, the Administration has reviewed its overall policy towards New Zealand. We continue to press for eventual change in those impediments that New Zealand has imposed which prevent alliance relations, while recognizing that our two countries have important business to conduct outside the area of defense relations. To advance that goal, we have decided to restore senior-level contacts between U.S. officials with their New Zealand counterparts for discussions on political, strategic and broad security matters.

The U.S. and New Zealand have enjoyed unusually close relations over most of this century, having fought together in virtually every major conflict. We share many fundamental values and a warm friendship. In recent years, we have worked together closely in the Security Council, international peacekeeping operations, and in the negotiations leading to the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round.

Our decision to restore senior-level contacts does not signify a restoration of our previous alliance with New Zealand under **ANZUS** nor does it foreshadow adjustments in other aspects of our previous security cooperation that have been curtailed.

It is our hope that our decision to upgrade contacts with New Zealand, along with the sweeping changes in the international environment since the mid-1980s, will lead over time to resolution of the issues that impede restoration of the full relationship which our two countries enjoyed before 1987.

(end text) NNNN